

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. **(Original)** Apparatus for laying elongate articles from a vessel at sea, the apparatus comprising tensioning means for controlling paying out of said articles along an axis of said tensioning means, a structure tiltable between upright and horizontal states, wherein the apparatus is operable in a first mode wherein the tensioning means is carried by said structure with its axis at an elevated angle, aligned with a departure angle of the article being laid, and in a second mode wherein the tensioning means is arranged with its axis substantially horizontal, the apparatus in the second mode comprising overboarding means for receiving flexible elongate product from the tensioning means along said axis and diverting it to a more vertical angle for departure from the vessel.

2. **(Original)** Apparatus claimed in claim 1 wherein the tiltable structure in the first mode carries a radius controller and a straightener for conditioning rigid pipe at a position upstream of the tensioning means.

3. **(Original)** Apparatus as claimed in claim 2 wherein the radius controller and/or the straightener are provided at least partially in the form of modules which can be removed when the apparatus is operated in the second mode.
4. **(Original)** Apparatus as claimed in claim 3 wherein the overboarding means comprises a sheave.
5. **(Currently Amended)** Apparatus as claimed in claim 1, ~~2, 3 or 4~~ wherein the overboarding means is provided at least partially in the form of a module which can be removed when the apparatus is in the first mode.
6. **(Currently Amended)** Apparatus as claimed in ~~any of the preceding~~ claims 1 wherein the tiltable structure is operable in the first mode to orient the tensioning means vertically and at a range of angles below vertical.
7. **(Currently Amended)** Apparatus as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1 wherein in said second mode the tensioning means is detached from and supported independently of the tiltable structure, the tiltable structure being returned to an upright orientation for supporting loads independently of the tensioning means.

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8. **(Original)** Apparatus as claimed in claim 7 wherein the tiltable structure can be operated in the second mode at a range of angles either side of vertical, to support in-line accessories as the product travels over said overboarding means.

9. **(Currently Amended)** Apparatus as claimed in ~~any preceding claim_1~~ wherein the tensioning means in the second mode is located at a position displaced horizontally from a location from which it will be elevated by said tiltable structure in the first mode.

10. **(Currently Amended)** Apparatus as claimed in ~~any preceding claim_1~~ wherein the tiltable structure comprises a pair of legs pivoted to the deck of the vessel at their lower ends and joined by a crossbeam at their upper ends, the tensioning means in the first mode being carried between the legs below the crossbeam, with a straightener and radius controller mounted above the crossbeam and being detachable when adapting the apparatus into the second mode.

11. **(Original)** Apparatus as claimed in claim 9 wherein the tiltable structure is movable to provide said horizontal displacement of the tensioning means.

12. **(Original)** Apparatus as claimed in claim 11 wherein the tilttable structure is connected to the vessel by one or more arms pivotally connected at one end to the tilttable structure and at another end to the vessel.

13. **(Currently Amended)** Apparatus as claimed in ~~any preceding claim 1~~ wherein the hydraulic control system of the tensioning means is a dual hydraulic system.

14. **(Currently Amended)** Apparatus as claimed in ~~any preceding claim 1~~ wherein the tensioning means include pads for gripping the elongate article, each pad comprising a base piece bolted to the tensioning means and an insert fitted with a quick release mechanism so that it can be changed for a different insert.

15. **(Original)** A method of configuring apparatus for laying elongate articles from a vessel at sea, the apparatus comprising tensioning means for controlling paying out of said articles along an axis of said tensioning means, a structure tilttable between upright and horizontal states, wherein the apparatus is configurable in a first mode wherein the tensioning means is carried by said structure with its axis at an elevated angle aligned with a departure angle of the article being laid, and in a second mode wherein the tensioning means is arranged with its axis substantially horizontal, the apparatus in the second mode

comprising overboarding means for receiving flexible elongate product from the tensioning means along said axis and diverting it to a more vertical angle for departure from the vessel, the method including detaching certain operating equipment from the structure, moving the structure between the upright position and the horizontal position and locating certain operating equipment for operation with the structure in the particular mode of operation.

16. **(Original)** A method as claimed in claim 15 wherein the operating equipment is provided as modules which can be removed and relocated with respect to the structure.

17. **(Currently Amended)** A method as claimed in claim 15 ~~or claim 16~~ wherein in the first mode a radius controller and/or straightener are provided at least partially in the form of modules which can be removed when the structure is in the horizontal state.

18. **(Currently Amended)** A method as claimed in ~~any of claims 15 to 17~~ wherein the tensioning means in the second mode is located at a position displaced horizontally from a location from which it will be elevated by said tiltable structure in the first mode.

19. **(Currently Amended)** A method as claimed in ~~any of claims 15 to 18~~ wherein said operating equipment includes the overboarding means itself, which is detached from said tiltable structure in said first mode.

20. **(Currently Amended)** A method as claimed in ~~any of claims 15 to 19~~ wherein said operating equipment includes the tensioning means itself, which is detached from and supported independently of said tiltable structure in said second mode.

21. **(Currently Amended)** A method of laying rigid pipeline from a vessel, the method comprising paying out the pipeline using an apparatus as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 14_1~~, operated in its first mode, the tensioning means gripping and paying out the rigid pipeline while supported on said tiltable structure at an angle aligned with the angle of departure of the pipeline from the vessel.

22. **(Currently Amended)** A method of laying flexible pipeline from a vessel, the method comprising paying out the pipeline using an apparatus as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 14_1~~, operated in its second mode, the tensioning means gripping and paying out the flexible pipeline along said substantially horizontal axis, the pipeline being diverted by said overboarding means from said horizontal axis to the angle of departure of the pipeline from the vessel.